

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ G-CSF-receptor or a ~~part~~ proliferation inducing domain thereof that, upon self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor or mineral corticoid receptor.

4. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

5. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the second polypeptide comprises the entire G-CSF receptor.

19. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the second polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks reactivity against G-CSF.

20. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 19, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks the extracellular domain of wild-type G-CSF.

21. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 19, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residue 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type G-CSF.

22. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the second polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks reactivity against G-CSF and the ability to induce differentiation.

23. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 22, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks both the extracellular domain and the differentiation inducing domain of wild-type G-CSF.

24. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195(Leu) as well as amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type G-CSF.

25. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 4, wherein the second polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks the ability to induce differentiation.

26. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 25, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks the differentiation inducing domain of wild-type G-CSF.

27. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 26, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195(Leu) of wild-type G-CSF.